

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1 beginning with "This application..." with the following rewritten paragraph:

--This application claims the benefit of priority to International Application No. PCT/US03/017335 filed June 3, 2003 entitled "LAPAROSCOPIC BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT" which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application Serial No. 09/590,330 filed on June 9, 2000 by Lands et al. entitled "LAPAROSCOPIC BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT" which is a continuation of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/970,472 filed on November 14, 1997 by Lands et al. entitled "LAPAROSCOPIC BIPOLAR ELECTROSURGICAL INSTRUMENT", the entire contents of both of these applications are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.--